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### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

Applicant's amendment filed on 08 November 2010 is acknowledged and entered. Following the amendment, claims 1, 15, 16, 22, 25-27 and 30 are amended.

Currently, claims 1, 3, 5-19, 22-64 and 66 are pending.

#### **Interview summary**

See attached PTO-413B

#### **Withdrawal of Objections and Rejections:**

The lack of written description rejection of claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph are withdrawn in view of applicant's amendment.

#### **Examiner's Amendment**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Vincent Shier on 13 January 2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 10-14, 17-19, 22-64 and 66 have been canceled.

Claim 1: the content has been replaced by the following:

-- Claim 1. An isolated peptide or a derivative thereof, wherein the peptide is derived from the human Basic Proline-rich Lacrimal Protein (BPLP) and:

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i) comprises the sequence X1-X2-Arg-Phe-Ser-Arg (SEQ ID NO:6), wherein: X1 represents H atom or a Tyr amino acid or a Cys amino acid; X2 represents Gln or Glp when X1 is H, or X2 represents Gln when X1 is Tyr or Cys; and the sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 is the C-terminal part of said peptide,

ii) consists of up to 15 amino acids, and

iii) exhibits an inhibitory property against a neutral endopeptidase (NEP) or an aminopeptidase (APN);

and wherein the derivative is obtained from said peptide by one to two amino acid substitutions, comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, and exhibits said inhibitory property against NEP or APN. --

Claim 3: the content has been replaced by the following:

-- Claim 3. The peptide of claim 1, which exhibits the inhibitory property against NEP. --

Claim 15: the content has been replaced by the following:

-- Claim 15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a peptide or a derivative thereof, wherein the peptide is derived from the human Basic Proline-rich Lacrimal Protein (BPLP) and:

i) comprises the sequence X1-X2-Arg-Phe-Ser-Arg (SEQ ID NO:6), wherein: X1 represents H atom or a Tyr amino acid or a Cys amino acid; X2 represents Gln or Glp when X1 is H, or X2 represents Gln when X1 is Tyr or Cys; and the sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 is the C-terminal part of said peptide,

ii) consists of up to 15 amino acids, and

iii) exhibits an inhibitory property against a neutral endopeptidase (NEP) or an aminopeptidase (APN);

and wherein the derivative is obtained from said peptide by one to two amino acid substitutions, comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, and exhibits said inhibitory property against NEP or APN. --

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Claim 16: the content has been replaced by the following:

-- Claim 16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polymer of a peptide or a derivative thereof, wherein the peptide is derived from the human Basic Proline-rich Lacrimal Protein (BPLP) and:

i) comprises the sequence X1-X2-Arg-Phe-Ser-Arg (SEQ ID NO:6), wherein: X1 represents H atom or a Tyr amino acid or a Cys amino acid; X2 represents Gln or Glp when X1 is H, or X2 represents Gln when X1 is Tyr or Cys; and the sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 is the C-terminal part of said peptide,

ii) consists of up to 15 amino acids, and

iii) exhibits an inhibitory property against a neutral endopeptidase (NEP) or an aminopeptidase (APN);

and wherein the derivative is obtained from said peptide by one to two amino acid substitutions, comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:6, and exhibits said inhibitory property against NEP or APN. --

**Conclusion:**

Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 15 and 16 are allowed.

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**Advisory Information:**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dong Jiang whose telephone number is 571-272-0872. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 7:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Nickol can be reached on 571-272-0835. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dong Jiang/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1646  
1/26/11